



CAFTA Will Not Solve Illegal Immigration NAFTA Failed As Well

Prepared by the Office of Congressman Sherrod Brown

Proponents of NAFTA said it would stop the flood of illegal immigration from Mexico by creating a robust middle class.

However, millions of Mexicans continue to cross the border in search of a better life. In fact both the US and Mexican government data show undocumented immigration from Mexico has soared since NAFTA.

Now, they are making the same disingenuous argument about the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

According to statistics from the Pew Hispanic Center, 260,000 illegal immigrants from Mexico entered the U.S. each year from 1990 to 1994.

After NAFTA's passage, that number rose to 400,000 per year from 1995 to 1999.

And in the last four years, that figure has risen to 500,000 illegal immigrants entering the U.S. per year.

Clearly, NAFTA's promise of reducing illegal immigration by creating a middle class failed.

We should have recognized the failures of NAFTA and worked to make CAFTA better.

But, since CAFTA is almost identical to NAFTA, and we know NAFTA failed on immigration, it is disingenuous to argue CAFTA will stop illegal immigration from Central America. In fact, if NAFTA is any guide, we can expect more of the same.